

A N
A D D R E S S
T O T H E
I N H A B I T A N T S
O F
G R E A T - B R I T A I N ;

Occasioned by the late
EARTHQUAKE at *LISBON.*

To which is added,
A POSTSCRIPT, particularly addressed
to the Merchants and others, who are
Sufferers in that awful Calamity.

*He looketh on the Earth, and it trembleth, he toucheth the
Hills, and they smoke. Psal. civ. 32.
And that knowing the Time, that now it is high Time to
awake out of Sleep. Rom. xiii. 11.*

Discere Justitiam, moniti, et non temnere Divos. Virg.

T H E S E C O N D E D I T I O N .

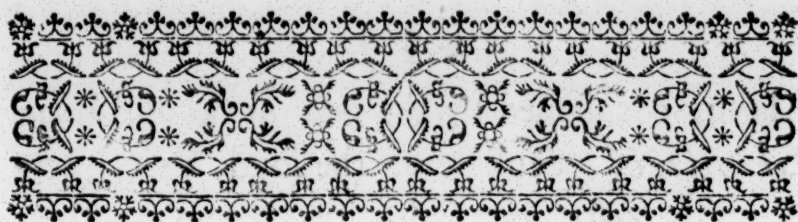
L O N D O N :

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MDCCLV.

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A N
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O F
G R E A T - B R I T A I N .

WHEN the *Judgments* of GOD are upon the Earth, the *Inhabitants* of the *World* will learn *Righteousness*,
If. xxvi. 9. They are sent for this important End, have a Tendency to produce this Effect, and therefore we may reasonably look for it. This has been often the Case with Nations and People, who have been visited with awful Calamities and Desolations : They have been affected with the Rod, have heard the Voice of Providence, and have awaked, and arose from their long Lethargy. What an unspeakable Mercy would it be, was this the Case with the Inhabitants of this Land, who have been so often threatened, and are now under some just
B Alarm,

Alarm, occasioned by the late *awful Stroke* at *LISBON*? Sensible of the loud Voice there is in that distressing Calamity, I would address you, my *Countrymen* and *Fellow-Subjects*, upon the Infidelity and Immoralities that are found among some, and the Coldness, Indifference, and Hypocrisy that appear amongst others; and consequently upon the Danger we are in, of feeling the *severe Indignation* of that GOD, who is of purer Eyes than to behold Iniquity. *BRITAIN*, once famous for her numerous Saints, Persons of the most unblemished Reputation, their Hatred of Sin, their Attachment to the great Doctrines of Revelation, and the Purity and Exactness of their Walk and Conversation, is now too much sunk into Security, and has almost lost that which is the *Glory* of a People. Oh, that my Head were Waters, and mine Eyes a Fountain of Tears, I would weep Day and Night to see so many careless and unconcerned, and asleep, when we have such Reason to expect the *just Resentments* of an *offended* GOD! — I wish thy Happiness, oh *BRITAIN*. I pray for your Prosperity, ye *Inhabitants* of *LONDON*. I long to see you flourish, ye *Churches* of the living GOD. * *If I forget thee, oh Jerusalem, let my right Hand forget her Cunning, If I do not remember thee, let my Tongue*

* Psal. cxxxvii. 5. 6.

cleave to the Roof of my Mouth ; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief Joy. I cannot see you asleep, without endeavouring to rouse you. Sure, it is high Time to awake, when GOD is beginning to bend his Bow, and let fly his Arrows.

See, the *Alarm* has reached our Land, that *LISBON* is no more ! No more the *wealthy City*, the *Metropolis* of a *Kingdom* ; no more the Boast of *PORTUGAL* ; its beautiful Palaces are all in Ruins, and many of its *Inhabitants* are destroyed with it, no more to be had in Remembrance. View the *Desolation* ! GOD speaks the awful Word ; the *Earth trembles* ; the *Mountains quake* at him, and the *Hills melt* ; the subterraneous Caverns open, and discharge their awful Contents. See the *Confusion* ! the *Houses left naked*, the *Inhabitants flying*, with *Terror* in their *Looks* ; some, attempting to escape but cannot, with *Shrieks* that would pierce the hardest Heart, see Death before them, and are crushed at once ; whilst others flee with Haste to the neighbouring Fields and Villages, and looking back, like the Men of *AI*, see their *Houses consuming in Flames*, and all their *Substance destroyed* in a Moment. *Awful Scene* to think of, but how much more awful must it be, to be *Spectators* of it ! No *Distinction* is made between the *Rich* and the *Poor*. * *The delicate Woman, who would not ad-*

* Deut. xxviii. 56.

venture to set the Sole of her Foot upon the Ground for Delicateness, is glad to fly naked, and rush through the surrounding Flames, or else is involved in the common Calamity. — How sudden the Fall! Those who had the Happiness to escape with their Lives, had not a Moment's Time to take with them what they had been collecting for many Years, but leave all to be buried in the Earth, or devoured by the merciless Flames. But this, even this is a Happiness, when we consider how it was with others. They have Time, we may suppose, to give one Scream, and are seen no more. Thus to go into Eternity in a Moment, appears somewhat striking to all, but especially to those who know the Worth of a Soul.

Thus awful is an EARTHQUAKE! And yet awful as it is, *we* might have felt it, and LONDON instead of LISBON might have been a Heap of Ruins. Think why the Cloud bursts *there* and not *here*! Why is PORTUGAL and not ENGLAND the Place of Confusion, and mourning in Sackcloth? *It is of the LORD's Mercies, surely, that we are not consumed; it is because his Compassions fail not. And shall we abuse so much Goodness, and make Returns of Ingratitude for such distinguishing Mercy? Shall we continue Swearers, Blasphemers, Infidels, and*
still

still run into every Excess of Riot? GOD forbid! But we are *concerned* even with this distant Judgment. Though it does not affect our Lives in particular, it does our *Comforts*: Many of our Countrymen and Friends, we fear, have taken their everlasting Leave of Time; many have lost their *Substance*, and *Families* are exposed to great Distress and Affliction. — And is not all this a *loud Call to awake?*

GOD has but *lightly chastised* us hitherto, but we have Reason to fear the *heaviest of Judgments* if we continue in our present *Security*. * Suppose ye, says our LORD, that these Galileans were Sinners above all the Galileans, because they suffered such Things? I tell you nay: But except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Or those eighteen upon whom the Tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were Sinners above all Men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you nay: But except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Thus many amongst us will be ready to reflect upon the late unhappy Sufferers, as if they were Sinners of the *first Rank*, and therefore that GOD has brought such Marks of his Displeasure upon them. We may be ready to indulge such Reflections as these — “ What
“ must a People be, upon whom such a Calamity as this is brought? The Hand of GOD

* Luke xiii. 2—5.

“ is evidently in it; and how can we view
 “ it, but as an awful Instance of his *In-*
 “ *dignation* against those, who were charge-
 “ able with Sins of a *peculiarly provoking Na-*
 “ *ture*? Was not this the Case with the *Inha-*
 “ *bitants* of that famous CITY, now in *Ru-*
 “ *ins*? Did not *Bigotry* and *Superstition*, *Cruelty*
 “ and *Blood-thirstiness* appear amongst them,
 “ and that in the *highest Degree*? *There* stood
 “ the INQUISITION, the very *men-*
 “ *tioning* of which is enough to shock an *English*
 “ *Ear*, where *Numbers* of *Virgins* have been
 “ sacrificed to the brutal Lusts of those wretched
 “ Monsters, the Inquisitors; where every *In-*
 “ *humanity* has been exercised, and every *dia-*
 “ *bolical Art* used to strike a Terror into every
 “ Breast, and to support a Cause *contrary to*
 “ *both Reason and Scripture*. No Wonder that
 “ LISBON is fallen. GOD has justly
 “ made it like unto SODOM and GO-
 “ MORRAH.” — Thus some may be
 ready to encourage such a Series of Reflections
 as *these* upon the late melancholy Providence,
 and go no further: But herein they mistake
 their Duty. Let it be granted, that all that can
 be said of the *Wickedness* and *Cruelty* of that
 City is true, yet, in our Reflections upon the
 present Dispensation, we should turn our
 Thoughts into a different Channel, and pursue
 some such Train of Reasoning as this — “ Is
 “ LISBON no more? Why might not the
 “ same

“ same have been said of *LONDON*? Is
 “ *that Kingdom* under so heavy a Stroke of
 “ Providence? Why does *ENGLAND*
 “ stand a Monument of Mercy? ’Tis true,
 “ their Sins were great, but are not ours
 “ as great? Blessed be *GOD*, we find not
 “ *Bigotry* and *Cruelty* so prevalent amongst
 “ us. Our *Religion* does not inspire us with
 “ Sentiments of *Inhumanity*. But our Sins
 “ are of a *crimson Colour*, and may *equal*, if not
 “ *exceed* theirs, as our *Privileges* are much *su-*
 “ *perior* to theirs. We enjoy the *Word* of
 “ *GOD* *pure* and *unadulterated*; they do not
 “ — We *bear* it in our *Churches*, *read* it in
 “ our *Houses*, *consult* it in our *Closets*, and have
 “ at all Times the *free Use* of it: Whereas they
 “ have no such Blessings. We can worship
 “ *GOD* according to our *own Consciences*,
 “ without risking our *Lives*, our *Liberties*, our
 “ *Estates*. We can sit under *our own Vines*,
 “ and *our own Fig-trees*, and there are none to
 “ make us *afraid*. The *Sins* then of such a
 “ People must be attended with *peculiar Aggra-*
 “ *vations*. And is *ENGLAND* yet spared?
 “ Have not any destructive Desolations yet
 “ *overspread* our *Land*? The Long-suffering of
 “ *GOD* is amazing!

“ Oh, *BRITAIN*, what Land has been
 “ favoured so much as *thine*? What People
 “ have enjoyed so many *Privileges* as *thy Peo-*
 “ *ple*; and therefore *whose Sins* can be compa-
 “ red

“ red with *thine* ? And has no *awful Calamity*
 “ yet laid *thee* in *Ruins* ?

“ What Mercies have we enjoyed for a Se-
 “ ries of Ages ! G O D seems to have *distin-*
 “ *guished* us from all other *Nations*, and to have
 “ bestowed all the Riches of his Munificence
 “ upon us. Have our *Liberties* been *invaded* ?
 “ He has kindly *preserved* them. Have *un-*
 “ *natural Rebelions* been raised and fomented
 “ amongst us ? He has *stilled* them. Have the
 “ deepest and most secret Schemes been laid
 “ for *enslaving* us ? He has graciously *over-*
 “ *thrown* them all, and commanded *Salvation*
 “ *for Walls and for Bulwarks*. Have we been
 “ threatened with distressing Calamities ? He
 “ averted the Stroke, when he had shewn us
 “ his Power, and what we have deserved. He
 “ caused the *Cloud* to gather and look black ;
 “ and then *scattered* it, and freed us from im-
 “ pending Ruin. How *often* has he delivered
 “ us ? What *Salvations* has he wrought out for
 “ us ? How *great* then must our *Obligations* be,
 “ and how notoriously *heinous* our *Sins* ? And
 “ is *L I S B O N* destroyed, and *L O N D O N*
 “ preserved ? *Distinguishing Goodness ! Astonishing*
 “ *Patience !* We above all have Reason to fear
 “ the *worst* of *Evils*.

“ Especially if we consider the *Sins* that
 “ *abound*.—And what can be named, that is
 “ not to be found amongst us ? Is *Infidelity* too
 notorious

“ notorious a Sin to make its Appearance ?
 “ No : This, this Sin, *odious as it is*, prevails
 “ amongst *every Rank*, and is accompanied
 “ with Circumstances that render it peculiarly
 “ *heinous*. The *Book of G O D*, that sacred
 “ Volume, is the Object of Contempt : That
 “ *grand Charter* of the Christians Privileges is
 “ *ridiculed and despised*. What *Convictions* have
 “ been *stifled*, and how industriously have many
 “ endeavoured to *silence* the *Clamours of Con-*
 “ *science*, and to arrive at such a *Pitch of Hard-*
 “ *ness*, as to make the *strongest* and most *mali-*
 “ *cious Opposition* to the *Bible*, that so they might
 “ attempt to destroy all real Religion, and lay
 “ a Foundation for gratifying their own Inclinations
 “ without Controul ! — And is not this
 “ enough to *raise our Wonder*, that *L I S B O N*
 “ should *fall*, and we only *just feel* the *Tremor*,
 “ so as to make us sensible of the Judgment,
 “ but *not experience* its ruinous Effects ? Have
 “ we not Reason to fear, that some distressing
 “ Evils are near ?

“ Again, See the *Sabbath*, how it is *pro-*
 “ *phaned* ! That Day, which G O D as a *Sove-*
 “ *reign* has *demande*d to be kept sacred, and as
 “ a *Father* has graciously appointed for the pro-
 “ moting our everlasting Interest, is turned into
 “ a *Day of Pleasure, Indolence, or Profit*, by the
 “ *Gentleman* and the *Merchant*, the *Master* and
 “ the *Servant*, the *Parent* and his *Children*, by

“ all Sorts of *People*. The *Counting-house* is not
 “ neglected, though the *House* of GOD is.
 “ The *Fields*, the *publick Roads*, and *Houses* of
 “ *Entertainment*, are filled with Company of
 “ all Ranks, whilst the *Ordinances* of GOD,
 “ those divine Institutions, which are so peculi-
 “ arly calculated to advance our real Happi-
 “ ness, are *despised*, as *unworthy* our Atten-
 “ tion. Nay, this *sacred Day* is prophaned
 “ in yet a more notorious Manner, by the
 “ frequent Use of CARDS, and other *Di-*
 “ *versions*, a *Scandal* to a *Popish*, but especially
 “ to a *Protestant Nation*. And shall we not
 “ again *wonder*, that we are not swallowed up
 “ with some ruinous Judgment, as well as that
 “ neighbouring City that is no more ?

“ Let us again view the many Scenes of
 “ Wickedness and Debauchery, which are
 “ found amongst us. And see, a long Cata-
 “ logue of Sins presents itself before us; Sins
 “ of the *deepest Dye*, that cast the utmost Re-
 “ flection upon human Nature, as sunk into a
 “ State of Degeneracy, *below* the brute Cre-
 “ ation. — *Murthers*, *Adulteries*, *Fornications*,
 “ and all Manner of *Uncleanness*, are frequent
 “ in every Street. They bid *Defiance* to *Laws*,
 “ nor seek the Sanction of the *Night*, whose
 “ friendly Shade used to be the Refuge of *mo-*
 “ *dest* Sinners, but *proclaim* their Sins like
 “ S O D O M, and even *glory* to commit Crimes
 “ in

“ in the *Face* of the *Sun*, which their *Ancestors*
 “ concealed in *Darkness*. These Crimes now
 “ claim the *Protection* of the *Great*, though once
 “ thought a *Reproach* amongst the *meanest* and
 “ *lowest* of the *People*.

“ *Drunkenness* and *Swearing* are practised by
 “ Men of every Degree. The most amazing
 “ *Execrations* are invented, to shew how far we
 “ can go in Wickedness. The *fine Gentleman*,
 “ whose Education should teach him Decency
 “ in Language as well as in Behaviour, appears
 “ as *fond* of an *Oath*, and is as ready to *blas-*
 “ *pheme* his CREATOR, as the lowest and
 “ most vulgar Person.

“ Nay, as if we had not done enough to pro-
 “ voke GOD; to these and innumerable other
 “ Sins is added that most *detestable* and *unnatu-*
 “ *ral* Sin of SODOMY; a Sin that sinks
 “ us below the brute Creation, but is yet too
 “ common amongst *Gentlemen*, and Persons as
 “ distinguished by their Stations as their Vices.
 “ — What is the Reason then that we are not
 “ visited with *Sodom's Judgments*? Oh LIS-
 “ BON, thou ruin'd, depopulated City, were
 “ thy Sins greater than ours? Yet see, the one
 “ falls, the other stands a Monument of sparing
 “ Mercy; hears of the awful Calamity, but
 “ feels it not!

“ We might take into Consideration the num-
 “ berless other Sins which are to be found

“ amongst us, and which render us deserving
 “ of the severest Calamities : If the Sins of the
 “ publick Enemies of Religion, Sins of those
 “ professing the Gospel, were all to be viewed
 “ by us, how much would they swell the Cata-
 “ logue, and fill us with Astonishment at the
 “ *Patience* and *Long-suffering* of G O D towards
 “ us, in preserving us from utter Ruin ! A Con-
 “ sideration of them would tend to convince us
 “ of the *Danger* we are in of falling into the
 “ Hands of a *provoked* G O D, and of the Ne-
 “ cessity of a *speedy Repentance* and *Return* to
 “ him.”

Thus, we should be concerned to indulge
 such a Series of Reflections as these, if we
 would make a suitable Improvement of the
 present melancholy *Stroke*. And a Person of
 of a religious Turn, and Solidity of Thought,
 will be ready to run into this Way of Reasoning.
 G O D grant that it may be the Case with all.

Ye INHABITANTS of this *happy*
Island, permit me to pour out the Overflowings
 of a Heart full of tender Concern for your
 Welfare. 'Tis the Design of this Address to
 put you upon *serious Consideration*, to call you
 to *attend* to the *Voice* of G O D in this late awful
 Dispensation, to *humble yourselves* before him,
 and to *walk suitably* to your religious Privileges
 and Enjoyments. Nothing but a Reformation
 can save us from deserved Ruin. We cannot
 suppose

suppose, if we remain *incorrigible*, that G O D will continue us the peculiar Charge of his Providence, but will come *against* us in his *Vengeance*, and let us *feel* the *distressing Effects* of his *just Displeasure*. He might give a Commission to the *Sword*, the *Plague*, the *Pestilence*, or the *Famine*, to come, and make their Inroads, and spread their Desolations amongst us, and what could we say? We must each lay his Hand upon his Mouth, and cry *guilty, guilty*. We have Reason to fear that this *offended* G O D will arise out of his Habitation, and ease himself of his Adversaries, unless we return to him by an *unfeigned Repentance*. Awake, awake then, all ye that are asleep, and provoke not your G O D to leave you.

Awake, ye COURTIER S, ye MINISTERS OF STATE, who sit at the Helm of Government, and stand round the *Person* of your *Sovereign*. No Regard will be paid to your Character in a Day of publick Calamity and Distress; but *you* may *fall* as well as the meanest Subject, as you see in this Providence abroad. Arise then, behold G O D in this Dispensation calls *you*. Be active in your respective Spheres, not only as *loyal Subjects* to your *amiable Prince*, and *hearty Friends* to your *Country's Welfare*, but as Men of *Piety* and *Religion*. Exert all your Influence in the *Suppression* of *Vice* and *Infidelity*, and in *encouraging*
and

and promoting real Christianity, and be shining Examples to all around you. —

*Awake ye MAGISTRATES, ye who are set as Guardians over our British Laws. Awake from your Sleep, and consider the Necessity there is for your acting with Vigour in the present Day. Arise, arise, the Cause of GOD, and the Prosperity of the Nation call loudly upon you. Summon up all your Courage and Resolution, and be faithful and diligent in putting into Execution every Law against Immorality and Disloyalty, that you may in all Things act as those who are sent for the *Punishment of Evil-doers, and for the Praise of them that do well.*

Awake, ye MINISTERS, that attend at the Altar. — It is suitable to your Character and Employment to be active for GOD and Souls. All have their Eyes upon you, commit the Care of their immortal Part to you, look to your Examples, your Walk and Conversation, and are willing to be guided by you in Matters of the greatest Importance. Rouse then from your Lethargy. Go forth in your Masters Name: Cry† aloud, spare not, lift up your Voices like a Trumpet, and show the People their Transgression, and the House of Jacob their Sins. Sound an Alarm in your respective Congregations, and endeavour by every possible

* 1 Pet. ii. 14. † H. lviii. 1.

Method to instil Sentiments of *Loyalty*, to your *Sovereign*, and *Love* to G O D, into the Minds of your People.

Awake, ye SOLDIERS, ye Men of War, that stand prepared to fight our Battles: Ye Guardians of our Liberties. Upon you is our Dependance under G O D for Protection from the perfidious Enemy. You are not only in Danger of falling with others in publick Calamities, brought by the immediate Hand of G O D; but when War is spreading its Desolations, you stand exposed to its *direful Effects*, and therefore should be Men, not only of *steady Loyalty* to your *Prince*, but Men of *real Religion*. Leave off your *Blasphemies* then, and act the *Christian*, as well as the *Soldier*. Not only behave with *Fidelity* and *Resolution* in your respective Posts, not only stand with *unshaken Bravery* in the Defence of your *King* and *Country*, but learn to fear and love that G O D, who can teach your Hands to war and your Fingers to fight, and can cover your Heads in the Day of Battle.—

Awake, ye MARINERS, that plow the Ocean: Ye that carry your Lives in your Hands. Some of you have seen that awful *Catastrophe*, that has been so *fatal* to many. *They are gone, but you are spared: Spared* in the midst of the most *threatening Dangers*. Sure, you cannot be *insensible* of the Obligations

tions you are under to GOD! Let your future Lives, be *devoted* with the utmost Chearfulness to him, who *bid you* in the Hollow of his Hand, when by the violent Emotion of the Earth and Sea, you *reeled to and fro, staggered like drunken Men*, and *were at your Wits End*. You all see the Wonders of the LORD in the great Deep: And some are more immediately the Care of a *divine Providence*, when the Enemies Cannon roar against you, discharge their awful Contents upon you, and threaten you with *speedy Destruction*. Awake from your Security then, and seek the LORD *whilst he is to be found, call upon him whilst he is near*. May a *Reformation* run from *Ship to Ship*, and every *Commander* not only try to *distinguish himself* by his *Prudence* and *Courage*, but by a constant *Fear* of GOD, and concern to promote the *Power of Religion* amongst those under his Care.—

Awake, ye MASTERS and HEADS of FAMILIES; you who have the *Instruction* of *Youth*. You may be peculiarly useful to those around you. It is high Time to awake out of Sleep, and to manifest a Concern for the *Glory* of GOD, and the *Souls* of those *committed* to your *Charge*. Set up *Religion* in your *Families*, recommend it to your *Children* and *Servants*; let every *House* be a little *BETHEL*, and do not live as those that
know

know nothing of G O D. You may be greatly *serviceable* in helping on a *Reformation*, by your private *Instructions*, *Admonitions*, *Examples*, and *Prayers*. Set your Hearts and your Hands to the Work, and may G O D be with you.

Awake, ye SLEEPY PROFESSORS; ye almost Christians, who take up with the *Form*, and know nothing of the *Power* of *Godliness*. Ye *Hypocrites*, who under a *fair Profession* are *dishonouring* G O D. Think you always to be thus mocking him with only *bodily Worship*, and never see to the *Cultivation* of Religion in your *Hearts*? Is it not Time to consider how much you have *added* to the *Guilt* of the *Nation*, what you have done to *provoke* G O D to *Anger*, and to think of that *Goodness* that has spared you so long? —

Ye Friends of J E S U S, do you awake too. What means this *long Coldness*? What means that *Shame* and *Cowardice* you have so often been guilty of in your R E D E E M E R's *Cause*? Whence this *Want* of *Zeal* for his *Glory*, this *Backwardness* to *Duty*, this *Earthliness* of *Frame*, you so often find? How is it your *Corruptions* are so *strong*, the *divine Life* is so *languishing*, and you *walk* no more like *Heirs* of an *eternal Inheritance*? Awake, awake, and see to have every *Disorder* rectified, and mourn over your own and others Sins.—

Ye INHABITANTS of this great METROPOLIS, this City so famed for its civil and religious Privileges, do you awake. Hark, the present Stroke, which lies heavy upon some of you, calls for your Attention. Why had not the Storm fallen here? Hear ye the Voice of GOD, To-day, whilst it is called To-day, and no longer provoke him with your Sins, lest he should come forth against you in his Anger, and consume and destroy you.

Awake, every INHABITANT of the Land. How soon may our Happiness be exchanged for Misery! How soon may we feel the Earth tremble, see our Houses falling, and have nothing but Desolation and Confusion before us! How soon may our Mirth be turned into Lamentation, and every Countenance look pale upon the Account of the Judgments of GOD upon us! And will you lie secure, as if there was no Danger?

*Think upon your Ways; how unsuitable to your Privileges and Character, how much dishonouring GOD, and how ruinous to your immortal Part. You that have never yet made one serious Reflection upon the Odiousness and Demerit of Sin, the Nature, Reality and Importance of Religion, and the State of your Souls; let me entreat you to retire a few Moments, and consider these weighty and most interesting Subjects. Providence calls you; every
Thing*

Thing concurs to call you to such a Duty. Look into your *past Lives*, and examine what *Sins* you stand chargeable with; consider the *dangerous State* your Souls are in, and fall down before GOD. And if you have never yet *prayed*, now begin. How amiable a Duty is *Prayer*? To see a Creature at the *Feet* of his CREATOR; *adoring* his *Perfections*, *acknowledging* his *Dependence* upon him, and *looking to* him for every *Blessing*! How *suitable* to the present Day of *Darkness*! The *Heathens* *prayed* to their Gods in Times of Difficulty, and will you be worse, more stupid than they? I would fain hope, that I shall convince you of, and persuade you to that, which tends so much to promote your Peace and Comfort. *Pray*, that G O D would *open* your *Eyes* to see, and humble you truly and deeply for the various *Sins* you have fallen into, and enable you to *return* to him with your whole Hearts. That if you have been *Swearers*, you may *swear* no more, but may employ your *Tongues* in *celebrating* his infinite Perfections, and *speaking* of his Works and his Ways. If you have been *intemperate*, you may learn to value, and *use*, so as not to *abuse* the Enjoyments of Life. If you have been provoking G O D by a *solemn Mockery*, you may now begin to be *Christians indeed*, and may have your Hearts and Hands *cleansed* from Sin, and your Souls *adorned* with the *divine Image*. If this was the Case

with the *Inhabitants* of this Land, how happy should we be ! We need not then be afraid of *Earthquakes*, of the *perfidious French*, or of *all the Nations* upon Earth. May the glorious Day come, and now be just at Hand, when * *Judgment shall run down as Waters, and Righteousness as a mighty Stream*. Not only the *Nation*, as such, would reap the Benefit, but every *Individual* would be the better for it. Do you consider, that though you may be kept from public Calamities, yet, that you are *hastening to Eternity* ; must soon *appear* before the *Bar* of G O D, and hear a Sentence that will in a *Moment* decide your everlasting Condition. Should you not fall by an *Earthquake*, by the *Sword*, or the *Pestilence* ; yet *Death* will soon come, direct an *Arrow* to your *Hearts*, and put an End to your Existence here. Consider then, consider the Things that belong to your everlasting Peace. Let the *late awful Scene* lead your Thoughts to view, the much greater *Solemnity* of the last Day, when *the* † *Heavens shall pass away with a great Noise, and the Elements shall melt with fervent Heat, the Earth also and the Works that are therein shall be burnt up* : When the *Judge* shall appear in all the *Glory of his divine Nature*, every Eye shall see him, and all those that would *not believe*, and *obey* his Gospel, shall, with unspeakable Terror

* Amos v. 24.

† 2 Pet. iii. 10.

and Confusion, call * upon the *Rocks* and the *Mountains* to *fall upon them*, and to *hide them from the Wrath of the Lamb*. One Moment's View of this last most *interesting Scene*, is enough to *convince* you of the *Reality* and *Importance* of Religion, and stir up you to *seek* with the utmost Diligence after an *Acquaintance* with it. Let me beseech you then, to *lay to Heart* these weighty Concerns; and may a Consideration of them make you carefully *attend Ordinances*, *prize the Gospel*, and quicken you to *seek after* those Things that will make for your *everlasting Comfort*.

Is there indeed no GOD? Then none of these Representations are just; none of these Consequences will appear. Sin then without Controul.—*But, if there is a GOD*, as universal Nature shews, and you *all* readily acknowledge; this GOD is infinitely just and holy and cannot be *pleased* with Sin, he is almighty and *able to punish the Transgressor*, and his *Purposes* and *Perfections* are *unchangeable*: You have every Thing to *fear* therefore from this GOD, if you *provoke* him: You have every Thing to *expect* from him, if you *love* him.—

I appeal to your *Consciences* for the Importance of these Questions I have put, and these Exhortations I have given you. You will stand

* Rev. vi. 16,

then *self-condemned*, if, after all, you cast Contempt upon them, and neglect Things upon which your Happiness so much depends. *I tremble at the Thought!* What, *Mercies, Judgments, Friends, Ministers, Conscience*, all call upon you, and *you not awake!* Will you provoke GOD to bring temporal and eternal Judgments too upon you? Is this the *Character* of *English Protestants*? Are they so far sunk into *Sin*? So awfully *asleep*? *Melancholy Thought!* Let it not be said of us: It will be an *everlasting Reproach* upon our Characters. *Rent your Hearts then, and not your Garments, and turn unto the Lord*, who will have Mercy upon you, scatter every Cloud that hangs over you, guide you by his Counsel, and bring you at last safe to his everlasting Kingdom and Glory.—

P. S. Thus, *my dear Countrymen and Fellow-Subjects*, I have ventured to address you upon this important Occasion, and I hope with a *real Desire* to promote your present and future Happiness.— I cannot take my Leave without discovering a just Concern for those *Gentlemen, Merchants, and others*, who have an *immediate Concern* with the late melancholy *Providence*. —

I condole with you in your present Case: *You* who have lost perhaps the *dear Partners* of yourselves; lost your *Children*, your *Friends*, with whom you have often sweetly conversed, your dear *Relations*, and your *Substance* too. I
doubt

doubt not, but every Breast feels the *tendrest* Emotions upon this Occasion, and *heartily sympathises* with you under your present Afflictions, rendered *peculiarly heavy* to many of you by a Variety of the most awful Circumstances. Do I not see your *Eyes gushing* with *Tears*, hear your secret Sighs, and feel the *Anguish* of your Hearts? I would not leave you, and only lament your Case. Is it not a fit Opportunity to remind you of the *Emptiness* of the World? What with so much Care (and I hope laudable Industry) you have been gathering, is gone *in a Moment*. Thus *Job*, though one of the greatest Men in the East *one Day*, was the *next* reduced to a State of great Distress, being bereaved of his Children and Substance *at once*. Permit me to address you upon this disagreeable Subject, the *Vanity of all earthly Enjoyments*; disagreeable to Human Nature, but of the *utmost Importance*, and deserving a *solid Consideration*. You were *pleasing* yourselves with a View of your Enjoyments: You little thought of the Stroke that was designed by Providence for you. Methinks I see your Hearts leaping, to think the Time was coming, when you should (some of you) either *return* to your *dear Companions and Friends*, or see them safe landed in your *native Country*. You who are almost come to the *Evening of Life*, and who have had your Labours blessed with *rich Success*, were thinking of spending the
few

few remaining Moments of Time in a *pleasing Retirement*, having every Thing necessary to render you *comfortable* to yourselves, and *useful* to others ; when behold, by a *sudden Blow* your *Expectations* are all disappointed. And as to some of you, perhaps your *All is gone*, and others are so much affected by the Providence, as to be rendered incapable of putting your Schemes into Execution : Whilst to others of you, Life will always *hang* as a *Burthen*, even if you were surrounded with Riches, when you consider your *bosom Companions*, your *dear Children* are gone to converse no more. So precarious are all earthly Comforts.

What, *my dear Countrymen*, what a *Stroke* is *this*, and what a *Call to serious Reflection* ! I would not intimate by this, as if you had been all absolute Strangers to Consideration. No : *G O D forbid* this should have been the Case ! But sure, you must be convinced, that however you have employed your Thoughts in useful Reflections upon the Uncertainty of every sublunary Enjoyment, that *here is a fresh Call* to that important Duty, and to *improve* the Affliction *this Way*, will be to the *Honour* of your Character as *Men*, and contribute much to your *Advantage*. It will make you view every earthly Scene with Indifference, wean your Affections from inferior Enjoyments, and so pre-
pare

pare your Minds for attending to Things of a more interesting Nature. In your present awful Confusion let me beg a Moment's Attention, whilst I present you with *Blessings* of an *infinitely nobler* Kind, than all the Riches of this World : Blessings *durable* and *substantial*, and every Way worthy of your Pursuit. You will not think me an *Entusiast*, in introducing a Subject of this Kind ; a Subject which runs through those Bibles, which I hope you have received as the *Word* of G O D. See there *Treasures* opening to your View ; *Treasures which Moth and Rust corrupt not*, and which *Thieves cannot steal* from those who possess them. Sure 'tis a Time now, not only to think of, but to *seek* with the utmost *Earnestness* after an *Interest* in them. These are *Treasures* which are peculiarly *suit*ed to your *immortal Souls* ; *Treasures* which *alone* can give you *compleat Happiness*, and a Consideration of which will abundantly *support* and *cheer* you amidst all the *Fluctuations* of Time. Were you but once to be in *good Earnest* in the Pursuit, and to be favoured with a *well-grounded Hope* and *comfortable View* of the Blessings of Immortality, you would find a *sweet Resignation* to the divine Will, under the present Shock, and a *Serenity* of Soul, which many are Strangers to, discovering its amiable Nature and peculiar Excellency, in leading you to some such Reflections as these : “ What a *melancholy*

“ *Stroke* is this which G O D has been pleased
 “ to lay upon me ! My *Substance* is in part, if
 “ not wholly taken from me, and many of my
 “ *Friends* are no more. My *Hopes* are disap-
 “ pointed : My *Schemes* sadly disconcerted.
 “ But shall I be over *sorrowful*, or give way
 “ to *Discontent* ? ’Tis evidently the Hand
 “ of G O D, and therefore I would be all Sub-
 “ mission, and say, F A T H E R, *not my Will*
 “ *but thine be done*. — Am I left naked and mi-
 “ ferable ? No. The Providence is affecting,
 “ but see the *Riches* of *Eternity* ; the *Blessings*
 “ which the *sacred Word* presents me with, are
 “ the same amidst all the Convulsions of Na-
 “ ture. Yea, in that great Day of the L O R D,
 “ *when the Heavens shall be dissolved*, and the
 “ Rocks will be removed from their Places, the
 “ Treasures which my *ever-adorable* M E D I-
 “ A T O R has secured will remain *unchanged*,
 “ and will afford *everlasting* and *complete* Feli-
 “ city. And have I an Interest in these incor-
 “ ruptible Glories ? Have I a Title to an In-
 “ heritance that will never fade ? This is enough
 “ to quiet a Mind affected with such an awful
 “ Stroke, as I am now visited with. With
 “ *Habakkuk* therefore will I cheerfully say *,
 “ *Although the Fig-Tree shall not blossom, neither*
 “ *shall Fruit be in the Vines, the Labour of the*

* Hab. iii. 17, 18.

“ *Olive shall fail, and the Fields shall yield no Meat, the Flock shall be cut off from the Fold, and there shall be no Herd in the Stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the GOD of my Salvation.*”

Some of you may be stripped of *Fathers*, of *Mothers*, of *Friends*, and *Substance*, and may be left to the *unkind Treatment* of a merciless World ; but if interested in the glorious Realities of a future State, this is enough to support, animate, and enliven you amidst these otherwise heart-breaking Scenes.

How happy, my dear mourning *Friends*, how happy should I esteem myself, to be an *Instrument* of soothing your Sorrows, and of relieving you under your present Anxieties, by leading you to the true *Fountain* of Peace and Consolation.

You cannot, I am persuaded, you cannot spend your Time in *Luxury* and *Intemperance*, or be seen at the *Playhouse*, drinking in the intoxicating Pleasures of Sin, when you know not but your *Friends* may be swallowed up, or be in the greatest Extremity. This would be so unsuitable to the Character of rational, intelligent Creatures, that I dare not suspect it of any, who are immediately concerned in the present Providence. It would be discovering such a Degree of Insensibility, as I would not suppose any of you to be arrived to. This would be acting worse than

than *Heathens*, and would *forbid* even the *Pity* of those, whose Hearts are often ready to *bleed* for their Fellow-Creatures in *Distress*. — May G O D support you under every afflictive Circumstance, and bring *great Good* out of this melancholy Dispensation to your *better Part*, that you may often *reflect* upon the *dark Scene* with a christian *Serenity* and *Calmness*, see the *Hand* of a *merciful* G O D therein, and what *Designs of Love* he had to you in making it a *Means* of bringing you to the *Pursuit* of those *Blessings*, which are too generally neglected by Persons in our Day. May he crown your *future Endeavours* with *abundant Success*, *excite* in the *Breasts* of your *Countrymen* a Spirit of *Generosity* towards you; and may he above all indulge you with the *Blessings* of the *upper Spring*, make you *rich* in his *Favour* here, and in the *full Enjoyment* of himself for ever.

I might now take my Leave, but I cannot without adding one Word to those *Gentlemen* and *Merchants*, who are not *immediately* affected by this dreadful Calamity. You, I would hope, *reflect* with *Thankfulness* upon the kind Hand of G O D, in *preserving* your *Persons*, *Families*, and *Substance*. You have hereby your *Capacities* for *Usefulness* continued, and an *Opportunity* now presented, to show that *Generosity* of Soul, which has upon *all Occasions* been so *clearly manifested*. Weep with those, who are

now

now weeping. They are *Bone of your Bone, and Flesh of your Flesh.*—They are *your Countrymen, your Fellow-Subjects*, a few Days ago, perhaps in Circumstances *equal* with *yours*, but now calling for all *your Sympathy, Condolance, and Compassion.*—It would be a *Reflection* upon your *Character*, for me to say, *do not distress them. You cannot do it.* Your *Hearts*, I question not, are *warm* with *Pity*. Shew it then in all the *Instances*, that come within your *Power*. *Pity* your *Friends*, your *dear Countrymen*, now suffering under the Hand of GOD. *Pity* the *Widows* and the *Fatherless*, if there are any amongst them. You may know some like *Rachel*, weeping for their *Children*, because they *are not* : May see tender *Hearts* pierced for their *Friends in Ruin*. Put on therefore *Bowels of Mercies*, and exert yourselves, according to your *usual benevolent Dispositions*, that the *Honour* of the *English Gentlemen and Merchants*, may not now be *stained*, by any *Methods* of *Severity*, taken with those, who by the *Providence* of GOD, and not by their own *Luxury* or *Sloth*, are deprived of their *Substance* and their dearest *Enjoyments*. Help your *Friends sinking* in *Distress*, full of *painful Solitude*, waiting with *Impatience* to hear all the *melancholy Tidings*, and *not knowing* what *Methods* to take for *Relief*. Help them by your *Sympathy*, your *Advice*, and your generous *Contributions*. This will give *Ease* to their *throbbing Hearts*,

Hearts, gain you *universal Esteem*, give your *generous Souls* the greatest Pleasure, and be ever *recorded* to your Honour and Reputation.

And permit me to remind you, of the *Uncertainty* of those Enjoyments you are now favoured with. GOD can soon take them *from you*, or *you from them* : And if *this World* is all your *Portion*, your *Happiness*, such as it is, it will *shortly* have a *final Period*, and you be obliged to bid an *everlasting Adieu* to all, and (*I tremble to think of it !*) your *Souls* will sink into an awful *Abyss* of *everlasting Misery*.—What an *Honour* would it be to *this Nation*, to have Persons of your *Character*, adorned with all the *Virtues* and *Graces* of the *Christian* ! How *useful* might you be in those Spheres GOD has placed you, by your *shining Examples*, by your *discouraging* Infidelity and Prophaneness, and giving the *Sanction* of your *Favour* and *Friendship*, to those who are filled with a single View to the *Glory* of GOD, and are exerting themselves for the promoting true and undefiled Religion in this too sinful Land.—May the GOD of Heaven shower down upon you all the rich Blessings of the present Life, and at the same Time stir you up to a suitable *Improvement* of them, by *relieving* the *Friendless* and *Necessitous*, and encouraging those Measures, that are taken for the reviving the *sinking Interest* of our glorious MEDI-
ATOR.

F I N I S.

